

BRITISH FLEET SINKS FOUR GERMAN WARSHIPS IN NORTH SEA; GERMANS CLAIM BIG VICTORY OVER ALLIES ON WEDNESDAY; REPORT RUSSIANS HAVE CAPTURED FORTRESS OF KOENIGSBERG

GERMANS SAY ALLIES' ARMY IS SURROUNDED; FRENCH WAR OFFICE DENIES REVERSES

No Serious Fighting Since Wednesday,
When British and French Were
Pushed Back by Fierce Charges
of Kaiser's Troops

FRENCH ASSERT GERMANS SUFFER
FROM FATIGUE AND LACK OF FOOD

Message From Berlin Says German Armies
Have Been Successful All Along Battle
Line and Are Pushing Forward

Despatches from Berlin, Paris and London show that there was a cessation of important engagements along the Franco-German and Franco-Belgian frontiers Thursday and yesterday, both the allies and the Germans apparently recruiting their strength in preparation for another general attack.

Official communications from the War Offices of France, Great Britain and Germany give details only of the fighting which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The official statements from Berlin say that the allies have been badly defeated; that in the north the French and British forces have been routed and are partially surrounded by the Germans and that the movement into France is being carried forward with complete success, although heavy losses are admitted.

The French and British War Offices agree in admitting that the allied armies were pushed back during the two days engagement, but both assert that their forces have retired in good order to strongly entrenched positions from which they will be able to renew the battle with confidence of success. The losses of the allies are likewise admitted to have been extremely heavy. The reports of the different Governments follow:

GERMAN REPORT.

The following wireless despatch was received by the Telefunken station at Sayville, L. I., yesterday from Berlin by way of Naumen, Germany:

"Headquarters has issued an official report declaring that the western enemy has everywhere been defeated and is in full retreat after nine days fighting."

"Gen. von Kluck defeated the English army at Maubeuge, renewed the attack to-day and threatened to surround it."

"Gen. von Bulow and von Hausen completely defeated the Franco-Belgian forces, about eight corps, between the Sambre and Namur and the Meuse in several days battle and are now pursuing them to the eastward of Maubeuge."

"The attack on Maubeuge was opened by the Grand Duke Albrecht of Wurttemberg, who defeated and pursued the enemy across the Semois and the Meuse."

"The German Crown Prince is advancing toward the Meuse and the Crown Prince of Bavaria repulsed an attack from Nancy and the south."

"Gen. von Heeringen continues the pursuit southward through the Vosges."

"Four Belgian divisions, attacking Tuesday and Wednesday from Antwerp, have been repulsed, losing guns and many prisoners. The Belgian population generally participated in the fighting, necessitating severe repressive measures."

"The corps of the last reserves have been called out to guard communications."

ALLIES SURROUNDED.

Message From Berlin Pictures Dire Plight of Enemy.

WASHINGTON, August 28.—The German Embassy makes public the following wireless despatch received at the embassy to-day from Berlin:

"The French and English north armies on the Sambre and Meuse rivers have been surrounded by German troops on all sides as a result of the latest fighting."

"The French east army has been partly driven to the south. This has prevented communication between the French east and north armies, while

all the German armies are in contact from Cambrai, through Upper Alsace. The German cavalry has advanced to Ostend."

"The appearance of a Zeppelin at Antwerp has caused a panic in London."

"Reports to Berlin from Copenhagen and Stockholm announce that there is a grave crisis in the French Government. The Spanish Ambassador at Vienna has called the situation in France very serious."

"The Danish colony in Berlin has warned foreigners to beware of fictitious news."

"A meeting to-day of all foreign colonies in Berlin was held, at which a resolution was passed thanking the German Government for the kind treatment of foreigners and expressing admiration of the wonderful spirit and enthusiasm shown by the German people."

EXULTATION IN BERLIN.

German Rejoice at Report of Rout of British Troops.

The following wireless despatch was received yesterday at the Telefunken station at Sayville from Berlin by way of Naumen, Germany:

"It is difficult to describe the fierce exultation of all classes in Berlin over the news of the British reverse at Maubeuge, as announced officially from army headquarters to-day. The German resentment against England for having 'injected herself into this conflict' and for calling in Japan, a yellow race, is so deep that news of the surrender of the British army on the Continent would be received with more joy and satisfaction in Berlin than tidings of the fall of Paris."

"It is reported here to-day that a portion of the British force is at present shut up in Maubeuge."

"The Berlin populace, inspired by the announcement from military headquarters that the 'iron ring' is making its way around the French, British and Belgian forces from Cambrai to the Vosges, exhibits little concern regarding the situation on the eastern frontier of Germany. It has full confidence that the task on the west line will be speedily finished and that the victorious German armies will then make sharp work of clearing German soil of the Russians."

FRENCH REPORT.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, August 28.—The following communique was issued by the Ministry of War at 11:15 to-day:

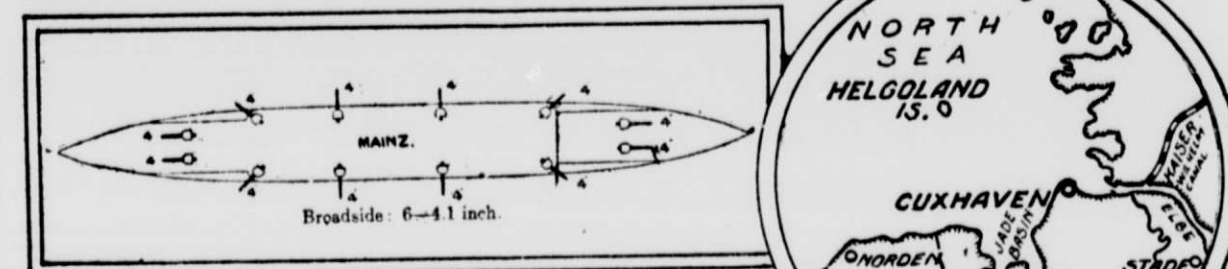
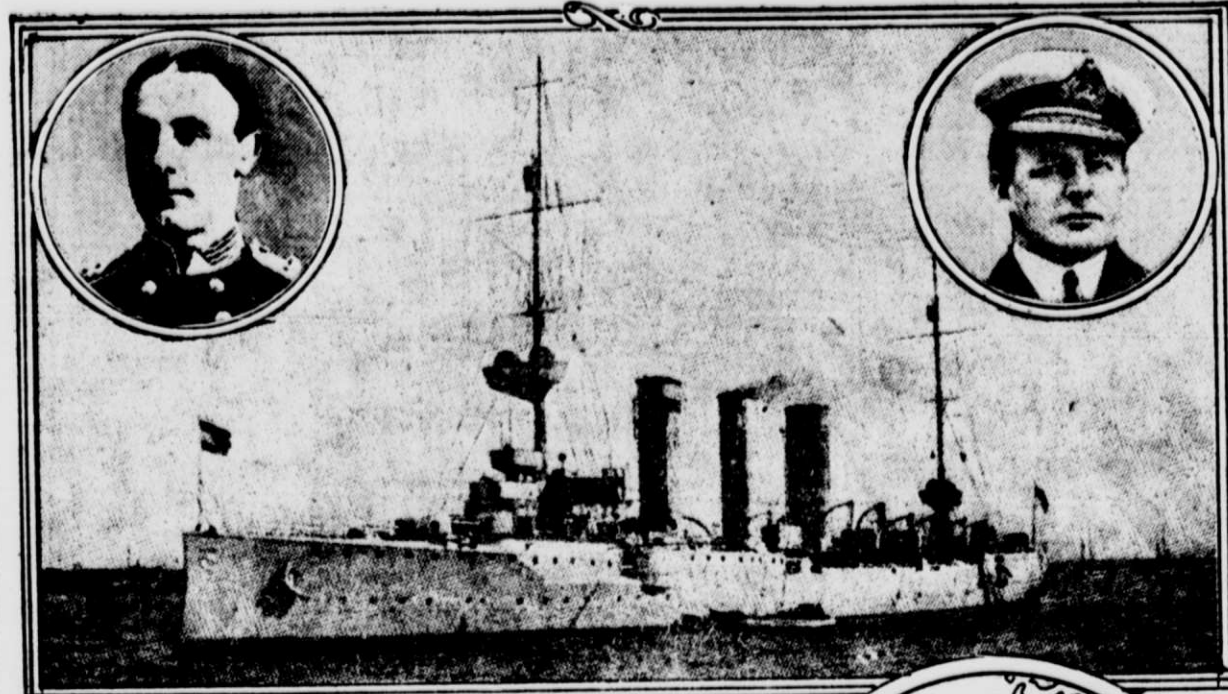
"The situation of our front, from the Department of the Somme to the Vosges, remained to-day what it was yesterday. The German forces appeared to have slowed up their march."

Semi-official information from the front is that the German troops are

suffering seriously from fatigue and also from a shortage of food. Prisoners say that the entire army has been greatly surprised by the stiffness of the French resistance.

All captured German officers report that it is a horrible, terrible war and that the German losses are enormous. Out of two regiments, the 112th and 142d Infantry, only sixty men were left after one

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TYPE OF GERMAN CRUISERS DESTROYED AND
COMMANDERS OF BRITISH FLEET

The Mainz, which was lost yesterday in a naval battle off Helgoland, was one of a class of four protected cruisers, the others of the class being the Coeln, the Augsburg and the Kolberg. The despatches say that a second of this class was sunk in the engagement.

The Mainz was launched at Stettin in 1909 and was a particularly fast vessel, her four sets of turbines having driven her at a speed of 27.2 knots on her trials.

The vessels of this class are of 4,280 tons displacement. They are 426.5 feet long on the water line and have a beam of 46 feet. They carry an armament of twelve 4.1 inch (40 calibre) guns and two machine guns, and are fitted with two 18 inch torpedo tubes. Their decks and conning towers are protected with armor.

Each of the vessels of this class carries a complement of 379 men. In the circle in the left hand corner of the cut is Sir John Jellicoe, commander in chief of the British fleet in home waters. In the circle to the right is Rear Admiral David Beatty, commander of the cruiser squadron which won the victory over a German squadron. Rear Admiral Beatty's wife was Miss Ethel Field, daughter of the late Marshall Field, the Chicago merchant.

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

GREAT BRITAIN.—Two German cruisers and two German torpedo boats are reported to have been sunk by British cruisers in the North Sea. A third German cruiser is reported to be burning. Premier Asquith reported to the House of Commons that the British lost heavily in their engagement in France along the Belgian border. He says that the British forces sustained the assaults of five complete German army corps, held their ground until the brunt of the attack had been met and then retired to a new position.

FRANCE.—German cavalry are reported to have been seen in the neighborhood of Arras. Scouting parties have also reached as far north, according to one report, as Calais. German prisoners seem to be suffering greatly from fatigue and lack of food. They report the German losses very heavy. Two regiments, the 112th and the 142d Infantry, seem to have suffered especially severely; only sixty men were left after the engagement. The French line in the north is still supposed to remain between Cambrai and La Cateau. The German line seems to have made little advance in the south. The plan of the allies apparently is to prevent the return of German troops on French soil to Berlin or East Prussia to meet the Russian advance.

RUSSIA.—The Russians are still advancing their lines in East Prussia. The report of their occupation of Tilsit is confirmed, and they are said to be

within striking distance of Posen. The Grand Duke Nicholas is confining his operations to attack on the main armies and is pressing rapidly ahead toward Berlin. The Russian invasion has caused great alarm, and the Emperor has telegraphed the Council of Ministers to organize immediately means of relief for the people of the territory invaded. The Russian army has driven in the outlying Austrian defenses and is in position to attack Lemberg, the capital of Austrian Galicia. The three army corps which were opposing the Russian advance have been split and forced back on the fortifications of Lemberg with heavy loss.

BELGIUM.—Louvain has been completely destroyed by the Germans as a military measure, the city having been burned in reprisal for hostile acts charged against the people of that place. Reports declare that the town was set afire by the Germans by using explosives and bombs and that now nothing remains of it but a heap of ashes and twisted ruins. The Belgians' Congo concessions have been attacked along the frontier by the Germans. British and Belgian marines are now in control of Ostend, the men having been disembarked on Thursday from British ships.

JAPAN.—Two small Japanese cruisers yesterday drew the first shots from the batteries at the seaport of Kiaochow. The British torpedo boat Wealand sank a German torpedo boat, S 90, off Chefoo.

ITALY LIKELY TO SEND ULTIMATUM TO AUSTRIA

Is Expected to Demand Explanation of Mobilization of Troops on Border.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 28.—It is rumored here, apparently with some basis of authority, that Italy will present an ultimatum to Austria-Hungary shortly, asking for an explanation of the mobilization of Austrian troops on the Italian frontier. It is believed that the Italian Government will set a very short time limit within which the ultimatum must be answered.

'LEFT IT IN PARIS! NEVER MIND'

Mother Says French Captain Will Take Umbrella From German.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 28.—The wife of Gen. Metzinger, a distinguished French officer, whose son, a captain in the army, was recently wounded, was travelling from Switzerland to Lorraine a short time ago. She says she

overheard a conversation between two German officers during a rainstorm. One said: "Oh, I left my umbrella in a hotel in Paris."

The other replied: "Never fear, you will be able to go and get it next week." "Pray do not trouble yourselves," interrupted Mme. Metzinger; "my son, who is a captain in the French army, will undertake to bring it himself."

The two officers alighted hastily at the next station.

PARIS IS WELL FORTIFIED.

Is Intrenched Camp Protected by Three Series of Works.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 28.—La Patrie, speaking of the defenses of Paris to-day, says: "Paris, by its situation, is the stronghold of the national defence. This city is an intrenched camp protected by three series of works."

"First, there is an inner circle of defenses, then a circle of forts, and beyond these a second ring of powerful forts, destined to prevent the enemy's shells reaching the city. Some of the latter ring of forts are twelve miles from the city."

A full description of the elaborate defenses of Paris, with a map showing their exact location, will be published in to-morrow's SUNDAY SUN.

CAPTURE OF KOENIGSBERG IS REPORTED

St. Petersburg Hears That
East Prussia's Most Formidable Stronghold
Has Fallen.

By THE SUN'S and the London "Daily Mail" War Service.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, August 28.

The "Times's" St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs that reports are circulating that Koenigsberg has fallen.

COPENHAGEN, August 28.

German fugitives who have arrived here from East Prussia say that the German position in that country is hopeless.

The fugitives say these reports have caused great uneasiness in Berlin. The German General Staff summoned the newspaper men to its office and impressed on them the necessity of calming the people. The General Staff added that the military position in East and West Prussia does not justify anxiety. The Cologne Gazette, says the Rhenish Westphalian cement factories have been closed and all work has ceased.

BIG BATTLE STARTS.

LONDON, Aug. 28.—A despatch from St. Petersburg, by way of Rome, says that a great battle is in progress along the Sereth River near Lemberg. Three Austrian army corps are engaged.

Despatches confirming the Russian occupation of Tilsit, sixty miles north-east of Koenigsberg, East Prussia, were received to-day by the Russian Embassy here.

According to the despatches many prisoners were taken in the fighting which resulted in the flight of the garrison and population of the town. The Russian Government has extended its postal service to include East Prussia, Russian stamps being used.

Commenting on the opening of the sluice gates of the Elbing by the German military authorities and the order of the German commandant of Marienburg to the inhabitants to evacuate the country, the Morning Post's St. Petersburg correspondent says:

"These are the methods of despair and indicate pretty certainly that Germany has no more trained troops to oppose the Russians."

The correspondent continues: "With the true eyes for strategy which mark the born commander of men, Grand Duke Nicholas has abandoned to its fate everything everywhere which did not lend itself to the attainment of a single aim of locating, attacking and destroying."

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BRITISH FLEET IN NORTH SEA SINKS 4 GERMAN WARSHIPS, LEAVING A FIFTH BURNING

Two Cruisers and Two Destroyers Go
Down Under Fire of England's
Gunners In First Naval
Battle Off Helgoland.

ADMIRALTY REPORTS BRITISH SHIPS
ESCAPED WITHOUT SERIOUS LOSS

Victors Commanded by Rear Admiral Beatty,
Whose Wife Is an American—German
Destroyer Sunk in Far East.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, August 28.

The Admiralty announced this evening that the British fleet has sunk two German cruisers and two destroyers off Helgoland.

The announcement says that a third cruiser was set afire and was left burning.

According to the announcement no British ship was lost in the battle and the British loss of life was not heavy.

The British naval forces which made the attack on the Germans was made up of a battle cruiser squadron, a light cruiser squadron, a destroyer and flotilla and some submarines. The strength of the German fleet opposing is not known.

The German ships which were lost included the Mainz, a protected cruiser, and another vessel of the same class, and a third cruiser, the name of which has not yet been learned here. The names or numbers of the two torpedo boat destroyers lost also are not reported.

A complete victory was won by the British ships, heavy damage to other German ships than those destroyed being reported. The enemy's destroyers fled for shelter.

The battle occurred in the Bight of Helgoland, and the attack is understood to have been made in the night, concluding this morning.

Rear Admiral David Beatty, Rear Admiral A. G. W. Moore and Rear Admiral A. H. Christian were in command of three British squadrons, which united their forces in the battle.

Rear Admiral Beatty is the youngest flag officer in the British navy, being now 43 years old. His wife, whom he married in 1901, was Miss Ethel Field, daughter of the late Marshall Field of Chicago.

Rear Admiral Beatty was in command of the first battle cruiser squadron comprising the Lion, his flagship; the Queen Mary, the Princess Royal and the New Zealand.

Rear Admiral Beatty formerly was Naval Secretary to the First Lord of the Admiralty.

The people of London are the more joyful over the news of the victory because of an announcement by the Admiralty that all the British ships involved returned from the engagement safely.

The Admiralty further announced to-night that the British destroyer Welland has sunk the German destroyer S-90 off the Chinese coast.

The report that Prince Albert, "the Sailor Prince," second son of King George, who was on the battleship Collingwood, had been attacked with appendicitis, is officially contradicted. It is said, however, that he has been transferred to a hospital ship.

It was reported yesterday that the Prince had been removed from the Collingwood because he was ill and it was hinted here that a battle in the North Sea was imminent.

FIRST BIG NORTH SEA BATTLE LONG LOOKED FOR IN ENGLAND

The British Admiralty's announcement yesterday of the sinking of two German cruisers and two destroyers announces the first naval engagement of importance in the North Sea in the present war.

Immediately after the declaration of war between Great Britain and Ger-